Global Tendering

3995 SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether in a Global Tender in October, 1995 a multinational French Firm named TLM, France was awarded a contract for Fabricator and Supply of Cadmium Copper Catenary Wire at Forty per cent higher rates than the prescribed rate; and

(b) if so, the details and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund

3996 SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund Japan is willing to sanction any loan for afforestation of the dry Eastern Zone comprising of Bellary, Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the amount of loan proposed to be given by the OECF;

(d) whether the project report had already been submitted to the OECF; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said loan is likely to be received and the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF) Japan is willing to support the forestry project entitled "Forestry and Environment Project for Eastern Plains of Karnataka." The project will cover 16 districts of Eastern Plains of Karnataka including Bellary, Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar districts.

The total cost of this project is Rs. 355.41 crores for five years covering about 5,48,000 ha. of area in 16 eastern districts of the State. The main objectives of the project are to preserve the unique ecologically sensitive areas of eastern plains, develop environmentally sound management programme for land, water and other natural resources, assure the sustainability of the living standard of the people, reduce poverty and augment earning capacity of poor people and ensure sustainable use of land and other natural resources by setting up participatory process of planning and management.

A Fact Finding Mission from OECF visited the State in February, 1996 to discuss the project in detail. The project has been pre-appraised by the OECF, Japan in July 1996 and it is likely to be launched in 1997-98.

Accident at Shikohabad

3997. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a goods train between Jharia and Bhatinda met with an accident on July 8, at the Shikohabad station;

(b) if so, the loss incurred to the railway property;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the causes of the accident, and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The loss incurred to railway property due to this accident was Rs. 36,40,000/-.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The enquiry committee has concluded that the accident occurred due to breakage of CBC lift.

Staff of ROH Depot, Mughalsarai, Eastern Railway has been held responsible. Action under Discipline and Appeal Rules against them is under progress.

[Translation]

Express Train Between Gaya and Kiul

3998 : SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no express train running between the Gaya Junction and Kiul on the Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to introduce an express train on this section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). No express trains are running in the Gaya-Kiul section of Eastern Railway due to operational constraints on the single line section. This section is adequately served by passenger train services and no new express is proposed.

[English]

Drug Price Control

3999. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of representations received against the wrong inclusion of drugs under the Drugs price control;